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The treasurer having reported a balance of \$531.20, it was voted that the Executive Board be authorized to invest in War Savings Stamps any amount of this balance that they see fit.

The meeting was then adjourned.

At a meeting of the Executive Board held July 5, the secretary and treasurer, Mr. Henry N. Sanborn, resigned, and Mr. William J. Hamilton was appointed his successor.

HENRY N. SANBORN,  
Secretary.

## SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

(Reprinted from *Library Journal*, August, 1918)

The first session of the Special Libraries Association was held Thursday evening, July 4, in one of the parlors of the Grand Union Hotel at Saratoga. Owing to the resignation of Dr. C. C. Williamson, John A. Lapp, vice-president, presided on motion. He urged that special attention be given to increasing the membership and suggested the formation of groups within the association, as for commercial, legislative and medical libraries. He also outlined the desirability, in his view, of holding the annual meeting of the S. L. A. at a time and place other than that of the A. L. A. conference, and there was general discussion, both pro and con, of this latter suggestion.

A report was received from the war service committee, R. H. Johnston, of the Bureau of Railway Economics, chairman, reviewing its efforts to cooperate with the American Library Association in war work. It had been felt that members of the Special Libraries Association were especially well qualified to supply camp libraries with material or information in special or technical fields, and for this reason the War Service Committee, appointed by the president shortly after this country entered the war, had been endorsed at the Louisville meeting. The committee's report, however, showed that despite untiring efforts on the part of its chairman, the cooperation proposed had not been welcomed by the A. L. A., whose war committee felt that the needs of the camp libraries for technical material could be met by ordinary

public library methods. Realizing that to a large extent this was true, the committee confined itself to quiet cooperation with individual camp libraries which expressed a desire for special assistance; in a number of cases the resources of special libraries were drawn upon, and through their influence also several publishers of technical books and periodicals contributed their publications to camp libraries.

Notwithstanding the chairman's belief that "the opportunities for special service might have been placed with more effect by the A. L. A. before the camp libraries," he expressed his admiration for the war work accomplished by the A. L. A. and recommended the discontinuance of the committee.

Mr. Lapp raised the question of whether the time had not come for the Special Libraries Association to organize on the basis of function rather than geographical distribution. After a discussion of the desirability of dividing the membership into groups of libraries, according to their direct interests and the basis of such classification, on motion of Mr. H. H. B. Meyer, the executive committee was directed to make a survey of all special libraries, classify these by type and report the progress of the work at the next meeting.

Thirty-five were present at the second session, held Friday afternoon, July 5. Mr. Lapp, presiding, recalled the organizing of the association at Bretton Woods, nine years before, and spoke at length concerning the fundamental characteristics of the special library and the service it should render. His contention that the public li-

braries of the country are not even today alive to their responsibilities and that only about ten per cent of them are rendering complete and effective reference service was vigorously combated by Charles A. George, of the Elizabeth, N. J., Free Public library and others, who argued that the public library is not called upon to duplicate the work of the special library. However beneficial this discussion may have been in "clearing the air," to use an expression employed by some of the speakers, it had the unfortunate effect, because of its length, of crowding from the program all papers save one, that by Miss A. G. Cross, librarian of the Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C., who described briefly the work of the great number of libraries maintained by federal departments, boards and bureaus, at the national capital, many of which have sprung into being since our entrance into the war.

At the evening session on the same day, also held in the club room, forty were present. J. H. Friedel, librarian of the National Industrial Conference Board, acted as secretary. The question was brought up as to what part special libraries could take in war service. Upon motion of Mr. Friedel, it was voted that the incoming president appoint a committee to memorialize the federal government's Committee on Public Information, offering to place at its service the resources of the special libraries of the country, and to draw up a plan of coöperation with that committee in war service.

John D. Wolcott, librarian of the U. S. Bureau of Education, spoke of the work of fifteen newly-organized libraries in government departments at Washington.

Kenneth Walker, librarian of the New Jersey Zinc Company, spoke upon "Pur-

chasing in a special library." It was evident from the discussion which followed that there is a decided variation in the purchasing methods of different special libraries; that while in some cases, as with the larger corporations, special librarians are hampered by their dependence upon a central purchasing office which orders books in the same manner as pins, window-screens or floor-mops, in other cases, as with libraries of membership associations, the librarian has considerable freedom in purchasing.

Papers by A. B. Lindsey on "The follow-up system of the Bureau of Railway Economics" and by C. R. Green, librarian of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, on "The special library as an aid to agricultural development" were not read, but the chairman announced that the former paper at least would appear in *Special Libraries*.

On motion of Mr. Friedel, the executive committee was instructed to formulate a plan for central registration of applicants for special library work.

Caroline E. Williams, librarian of the DuPont de Nemours Powder Company's experiment station at Wilmington, Del., was chosen secretary of the association, and J. H. Friedel was made a member of the executive committee. The selection of a president and vice-president was entrusted to a committee composed of the executive committee and three other members; this committee as finally made up consisted of Misses Williams and Ethel M. Johnson, and Messrs. Lapp, Handy, Lee, Friedel and R. H. Johnston. At a post-conference meeting the committee chose Guy E. Marion as president and Edward H. Redstone as vice-president.